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**NW's Roanoke Shops: 85 years, 71,000 cars**

April 26, 1982

# RAILWAY AGE

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## Intermodal technology: The competition heats up

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## FEATURES

**Cover:** Itel Impack car, built by FMC, in test service on BN at Portland, Ore. *Page 15*

### Intermodal technology


**15 The competition heats up**
Manufacturers who see TOFC/COFC as the wave of the future have come up with 17 different equipment concepts—and they're still busy at the drawing boards.

**17 What, why, how—and by whom**
A company-by-company rundown, ranging from the well-tested Ten-Pack to such new concepts as Rail or Trail, which has 16 highway wheels and 8 rail wheels.

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NW builds rigidly standardized cars to its own specs, thus keeping costs low—and therefore isn't anxious to solicit business from other railroads.

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The device permits a single engineer, commanding seven locomotives in two sets, to handle heavier trains—faster—over rugged mountainous terrain.

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Cyclical buying, warns Intransco President Lawrence P. Colman, forecloses the economies made possible by steady, year-to-year procurements.

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# Market

## CARLOADINGS

Loadings of revenue freight in the week ended April 3 totaled 385,702 cars, according to the Association of American Railroads. This was a decrease of 10,157 cars, or 2.6%, compared with the corresponding week last year. Ton-miles generated by carloadings in the week ended April 3 are estimated at 16.7 billion, a decrease of 3.6% below the corresponding week of 1981.

| Commodity | Apr. 3 week | Mar. 27 week |
|---|---|---|
| Grain | 27,717 | 26,882 |
| Other farm products | 3,307 | 3,584 |
| Metallic ores | 20,700 | 19,873 |
| Coal | 114,327 | 122,966 |
| Crushed stone, gravel & sand | 9,517 | 9,431 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 10,436 | 10,753 |
| Grain mill products | 12,558 | 12,584 |
| Food & kindred products | 13,908 | 14,355 |
| Primary forest products | 15,505 | 15,839 |
| Lumber & wood products (except furniture) | 6,393 | 6,375 |
| Pulp, paper & allied products | 17,590 | 17,809 |
| Chemicals & allied products | 24,258 | 24,260 |
| Petroleum products | 4,731 | 4,652 |
| Stone, clay & glass products | 10,623 | 10,532 |
| Coke | 5,360 | 5,296 |
| Metals & products | 12,033 | 11,733 |
| Motor vehicles & equipment | 15,611 | 15,249 |
| Waste & scrap materials | 8,586 | 8,789 |
| Forwarder & shipper assn. traffic | 9,776 | 9,506 |
| All other carloads | 42,558 | 43,083 |
| LCL traffic | 208 | 204 |
| **Total Cars Loaded** | **385,702** | **393,755** |
| **Cumulative total, 14 weeks** | **5,214,261** | **6,013,912** |
| **Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions), 14 weeks** | **225.1** | **253.9** |

## PIGGYBACK LOADINGS

U.S. piggyback loadings for the week ended Mar. 27 totaled 37,084 cars (10.0% above corresponding 1981 week) and 60,328 trailers or containers (down 1.6% from 1981). Cumulative volume for the first 13 weeks of 1982 is 446,090 (up 8.0% from 1981) and 785,467 trailers or containers (up 5.0% from 1981).

● *Conrail.*—Applied to the FRA for authority to install remote control interlocking at Ashtabula, Ohio, to replace a mechanical interlocking destroyed by fire last December.

● *CP RAIL.*—Will invest $66.2 million in capital improvements in Ontario this year. The program calls for installation of 17 hotbox detectors; laying of 65 miles of new rail; rebuilding of 27 bridges and culverts; and installation of 458,000 new crossties.

● *Missouri Pacific.*—Applied to the FRA for approval to install a traffic control system between Whitesboro, Tex., and Fort Worth, 71 miles. Project will involve removal of 83 automatic block signals and installation of: 35 controlled signals and 25 automatic block signals; 11 control points, 11 power-operated switches and 13 electric switch locks; and a traffic control machine at Spring, Tex.

● *United States Agency for International Development.*—Is funding a feasibility study for a railway tunnel crossing of the Bosphorus at Istanbul, Turkey. The Turkish Ministry of Public Works has retained De Leuw, Cather International Limited, in joint venture with Sverdrup & Parcel and Associates and Botek of Turkey, to conduct the study, which will investigate the engineering, economic and financial feasibility of a railway link between Europe and Asia at Istanbul.

## ESTIMATED OWNERSHIP—ALL REVENUE FREIGHT CARS

**March 1, 1982 vs. March 1, 1981**

| | | Box | Covered Hopper | Gondola | Hopper | Flat | Refg. | All Others | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class I | 1982 | 310,952 | 173,575 | 142,245 | 303,799 | 90,535 | 58,476 | 25,212 | 1,104,793 |
| | 1981 | 343,299 | 173,436 | 149,187 | 313,335 | 94,819 | 62,109 | 26,617 | 1,162,802 |
| Class II & S&T Cos.* | 1982 | 54,248 | 8,794 | 10,784 | 13,078 | 4,709 | 3,552 | 3,281 | 98,446 |
| | 1981 | 57,176 | 8,226 | 11,268 | 13,957 | 5,325 | 3,516 | 3,280 | 102,748 |
| Railbox-Railgon | 1982 | 24,995 | | 3,999 | | | | | 28,994 |
| | 1981 | 24,665 | | 2,268 | | | | | 26,933 |
| RRO&C** Refgs. | 1982 | | | | | | 3,271 | | 3,271 |
| | 1981 | | | | | | 3,428 | | 3,428 |
| Private | 1982 | 733 | 128,370 | 26,428 | 20,751 | 52,512 | 6,929 | 190,984 | 426,707 |
| | 1981 | 1,394 | 122,660 | 22,745 | 20,822 | 52,171 | 9,149 | 186,671 | 415,612 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 1982 | 390,928 | 310,738 | 183,456 | 337,628 | 147,756 | 72,228 | 219,477 | 1,662,211 |
| | 1981 | 426,534 | 304,322 | 184,468 | 348,114 | 152,315 | 78,202 | 216,568 | 1,711,523 |

* Class II railroads and switching and terminal companies.
** Railroad owned and controlled refrigerator car lines.